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2 STABBED OUTSIDE CHARLIE HEBDO'S FORMER OFFICE

Two people were wounded in a suspected machete terror attack on Friday near the satirical magazine's former office

TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED, INVESTIGATION ON

The counterterrorism unit of French police have taken over the probe and arrested two suspects, reports said. Rue Nicolas-Appert, the street in Paris's 11th arrondissement on which the satirical magazine was formerly based, has been cordoned off, French paper Le Monde reported. The attack weapon was recovered from the scene of the crime

VICTIMS OUT OF DANGER, SAYS FRENCH PM

- The two people wounded were staff at a TV production company
- The two were smoking outside the building when they were attacked. French PM Jean Castex said both are out of danger
- The attack comes days after the satirical magazine republished controversial cartoons of Prophet Muhammad | P12

12
WERE KILLED IN THE JANUARY 7, 2015 ATTACK ON CHARLIE HEBDO OFFICES

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

4 JUNE 1946 • 25 SEPTEMBER 2020

SPB
SWARA OF PERFECT BRILLIANCE

TAPAS RANJAN

Music phenomenon leaves behind over 40,000 songs in several languages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

LEGENDARY singer SP Balasubrahmanyam breathed his last at a private hospital in Chennai on Friday. He was 74. The singer was hospitalised on August 5 due to complications arising from Covid-19. On August 14, it was announced that his condition had worsened, and he was shifted to the High Dependency Unit. Though his son, SP Charan, later said that the singer showed improvements and tested negative for Covid, the music legend succumbed to illness.

Sripathi Panditaradhyula Balasubrahmanyam was born in Konetammapeta, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, on June 4, 1946. A six-time National Award winner, he made his singing debut with the Telugu film, *Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna* in 1966.

He made his Kannada debut the same year for composer M Ranga Rao in *Nakkare Ada Swarga*. SPB was introduced to Tamil through legendary composer MS Viswanathan's song, *Iyarkaiyenum Idhayakani* in the Gemini Ganesan film, *Shanthi Nilayam* (1969). The same year saw SPB singing his breakout song, *Aayiram Nilave Vaa* for MGR's *Adimaipenn*.

Balasubrahmanyam was drawn to music at an early age but did not get training in classical singing, though he evinced interest in learning musical instruments. He won first prize in a music competition for the budding singers organised by the Madras-based Telugu Cultural Organisation and also won the best singer award in a competition judged by his father SP Kodandapani and mentor Ghantasala Venkateswararao.

Over the next five decades, SPB, as he is fondly referred to, made an indelible mark across various languages. In a career spanning over 50 years, SPB sang over 40,000 songs in several languages, including Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi, among others. He received his first National Award for his seminal work in *Shankarabharanam*. This was the first of the three National Awards he received for singing in Telugu. *Shankarabharanam* received worldwide acclaim and cemented SPB as one of the premier singers of the country for singing a largely Carnatic-based sound track without any formal training in the medium.

He received his other National Awards for his work in *Sagara Sangamam* and *Rudraveena*. P16

Called 'Paadum Nila' or 'Singing Moon' by his countless fans, he was honoured with Padma Bhushan and many National Awards

President Ram Nath Kovind

With the unfortunate demise of Shri SP Balasubrahmanyam, our cultural world is a lot poorer

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Balu... I had asked you to come back soon. I had said I wanted to meet you. Where did you go? Did you go to sing for the celestial beings?

Ilaiyaraaja

INSIDE
MUSIC RATNA
THE BOLLYWOOD CONNECTION | P16
THE VOICE THAT ACTED | P16

Voda wins ₹22K cr retro tax case against Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

BRITISH telecom major Vodafone on Friday won its decade-long legal battle against a ₹22,100 crore retrospective tax demand raised by the Indian government.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled that India's tax law, imposed retrospectively after the Supreme Court had ruled in Vodafone's favour, violated conditions that guaranteed "fair and equitable" treatment to investors.

The tribunal said the Indian government should cease its demands on Vodafone under the bilateral treaty signed between The Netherlands and India in 1995. India has also been directed to reimburse ₹40.3 crore to the telco towards legal costs incurred.

The development is a significant boost to Vodafone Group and its joint venture in India, Vi (formerly Vodafone Idea). Vi stock prices surged 13.6% following the news, with analysts noting that relief from the massive tax demand may result in Vodafone Group freeing up some cash to help its beleaguered Indian venture.

The case was surrounded by controversy from the beginning. In 2007, the then UPA government sent notices to Vodafone alleging it had failed to deduct taxes while acquiring Hutchison (through its investment arm VIHBV). The firm moved the SC, which ruled in its favour in January 2012, saying the transaction was not taxable in India under the I-T Act 1961.

The Centre, then, pulled off a highly controversial move. The then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee moved the Finance Act 2012, which retrospectively made firms taxable for any gain on "transfer of shares in a non-Indian company, which derives substantial value from underlying Indian assets". As a consequence, Vodafone was left facing a total tax demand of ₹14,200 crore, including principal and interest, but no penalties. The company, then, used the bilateral treaty to challenge the demand in January 2014, by when the NDA government arrived on the scene. Negotiations followed, but an arbitration notice was eventually served by the company in April 2014.

Vodafone went to The Hague for arbitration in June 2016.

ALL OPTIONS OPEN, SAYS CENTRE

The Centre on Friday said it will consider all options, including legal remedies, on the Vodafone arbitration case

CAG REPORT

Loss to states as Centre got IGST wrong

ANURADHA SHUKLA @New Delhi

EVEN as the Centre and states are locked in a tussle over non-payment of GST compensation, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has found the Central government wrongly calculated the integrated goods and services tax (IGST), resulting in states getting much lower share from their GST pool.

"During 2018-19, a sum of ₹15,001 crore was erroneously transferred and accounted as states' share of net proceeds of IGST instead of being apportioned between Centre and States," said the CAG report, which was tabled in Parliament on the last day of the monsoon session.

Under GST rules, the ₹15,001 crore should have been split between the Centre and states. P10,13

Members of various farmers' organisations gather in protest over farm bills at Shambu Punjab-Haryana border near Ambala on Friday | PTI

K'TAKA FARMERS TO GO AHEAD WITH BANDH | P4

Farmers' bandh total in Punjab, not so elsewhere

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

A nationwide shutdown farmers' organisations sought to enforce on Friday in protest against three farm sector reform bills passed by Parliament recently, paralysed Punjab and drew mixed response in Haryana, but had little impact elsewhere. Life came to a standstill across Punjab as famers blocked roads and squatted on rail tracks. Supply of essential commodities was hit badly and markets did not open during the day.

Haryana respoded differently as commercial establishments and public transport were not affected, though grains markets were deserted. In UP, farmers gathered at the Delhi-Noida border prompting police deployment. They also blocked the Delhi-Meerut Expressway at Modinagar near Ghaziabad. In Bihar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav participated in a tractor rally to support the farmers. In Karnataka, farmers blocked the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu highway and about 250 protesters were taken into custody. P10

3-phase Bihar polls first test for Covid response

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND KUMAR VIKRAM @ Patna/New Delhi

REGIONAL political equations and caste arithmetic will play a decisive role in the Bihar Assembly polls that will be held in three phases — October 28, November 3 and November 7.

Seventy-one of the 243 Assembly seats will go to the polls in the first phase, 94 in the second and 73 in the third phase. The results will be announced on November 10, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said on Friday. Confident of successfully pulling it off, the CEC cited the NEET and JEE exams that were held during the pandemic to say life must go on. Over seven lakh hand sanitiser units, about 46 lakh masks, six lakh PPE kits, 6.7 lakh units of face shields and 23 lakh pairs of hand gloves have been arranged for the polls, he informed.

Bihar will be the first electoral test for the Centre's handling of the Covid and the migrant crisis, the farm reform bills and the controversial CAA-NRC issue. Unemployment, too, is a major issue because many migrants who returned home could not find suitable jobs in their respective areas. Over 30 lakh migrants returned to Bihar amid the pandemic and the issue will remain alive till the polls. Besides, over 84 lakh people were affected by the floods this year, compounding the problems of migrants.

Whether or not RJD's Tejashawi Yadav and the Congress, along with some smaller parties, can put up a united front to exploit the anti-incumbency remains to be seen.

As for the NDA, it is still flogging the 15-year 'jungle raj' of Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi. The BJP is already working on seat-sharing within the NDA and its main challenge is to accommodate all players, including the JD(U), LJP and the HAM.

₹65,000 cr hole in state's revenue: Govt

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA stares at an estimated revenue loss of Rs 65,265 crores this fiscal year, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J C Madhuswamy told the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Friday.

The government was defending its bill to amend to the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act for enhancing borrowings to 5 per cent of GSDP from the existing 3 per cent.

The bill was opposed by the opposition Congress and JDS which warned the government that heavy borrowings to offset losses will have a cascading effect for the next 7-8 years on the state's finances and development. The opposition insisted that the State Government, instead of borrowing heavily, should cut down on administrative expenses (committed expenses) and urge the Union Government to pay its dues.

The Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2020 was passed after much furore and amid a walkout by the Congress party.

Revenue receipts as estimated in the budget for 2020-2021 was Rs 1,79,919 crore. This includes estimated receipts from state taxes, share of central taxes from devolution, grants from the Union Government for various schemes and policies and non-tax revenue.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

Gavaskar in soup over Anushka comment

Dubai: Sunil Gavaskar on Friday found himself in the midst of a controversy for a comment on India skipper Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma but the legendary batsman asserted that his remarks, construed as sexist, were misinterpreted. Gavaskar was speaking in Hindi when he made the comment. P15

IPL TODAY
SRH vs KKR

FRIDAY'S RESULT
DELHI WIN

Delhi Capitals posted 175/3 in 20 overs after being asked to bat first by Chennai Super Kings in Dubai on Friday. In reply, CSK were 131/7 in 20 overs

LIVE: STAR SPORTS1/ HOTSTAR @ 7.30PM

HOUSE ON THE BOIL

Water in this sump heats up on its own!

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

OPEN the lid of the sump and a blast of steam hits you. Inside, the water is boiling and nobody knows why or how. This mysterious phenomenon, which has been occurring over the last four days, has puzzled not just the house owners, but also the gram panchayat members as well as geologists.

Suresh P, the owner of a 600 sqft house in Margondanahalli village under Bidarahalli Gram Panchayat limits, towards Bengaluru East, is looking to rent it out, but due to the pandemic, he has not found any tenants so far. The family had visited the house four days ago to clean it up, hoping to get new tenants. That was when Suresh noticed the boiling water in the underground sump.

"While cleaning the floor tiles in the front yard, I saw steam emanating from the sides of the sump lid. When I opened, I was almost thrown back by a gush of steam. The water in the sump was boiling hot," Suresh explained.

Even walking barefoot on the house floor was unbearable due to heat. Shocked by what he had witnessed, he informed the local panchayat members. A team inspected the place and speculated that it could be because of electrical issues. They called the power utility technicians, who immediately disconnected power supply to the water pump.

But nothing much changed, and the water in the sump continued to boil.

CONTINUED ON: P2